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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/823,795 Confirmation No.: 4678
Applicant : FELDMEIERS, et al.
Filed : April 14, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1761
Examiner : N/A
Docket No. : 1410/77107
Customer No. : 22242
Title : RIGID RECLOSABLE BACON PACKAGE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO-1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- (X) **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.
- () **after** (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:
 - () the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see “Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)” below).
 - or*
 - () the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).
- () **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see “Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)” below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).
- () **after** the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see “Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)” below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see “Fees” below).
NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

Non-English Language Patents, Publications, or other Information

- () In conformance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i), a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood, of each of the listed , is set forth in respective enclosed English-language abstracts therefor.
- () In conformance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(ii), a written English-language translation is enclosed for listed .

Copies of the References

- () Copies of the non-U.S. patent references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.
- () A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed herewith.
- () The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (<i>check one</i>)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

- () The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- () The **undersigned** hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

- () The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Fees

- (X) No fee is owed by the applicant(s).
() The IDS Fee of \$180 under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

Method of Payment of Fees

- () Attached is a check in the amount of \$180.00.
() Charge Deposit Account No. 06-1135 in the amount of \$. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

- () If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 06-1135. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Instructions as to Overpayment

- () Credit Account No. 06-1135.
() Refund

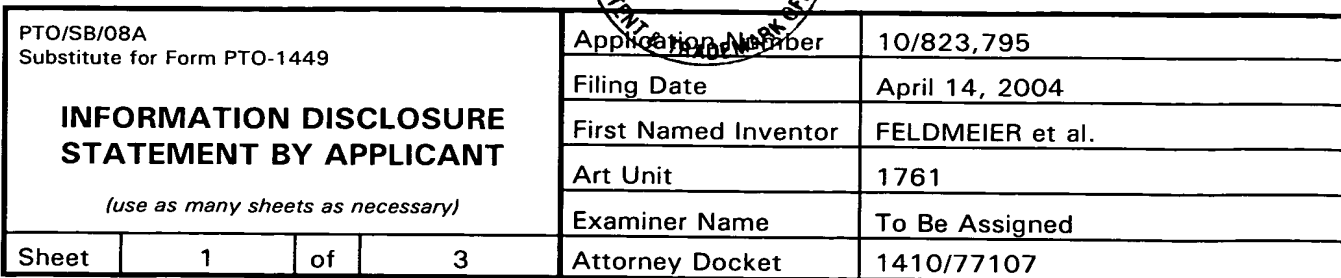
Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Date: June 29, 2004

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ²			
		US- 3,559,865	02-02-1971	Field et al.	
		US- 3,803,332	04-09-1974	Seiferth et al.	
		US- 3,978,260	08-31-1976	Dobbins et al.	
		US- 4,875,587	10-24-1989	Lulham et al.	
		US- 4,894,248	01-16-1990	Pappas et al.	
		US- 5,074,416	12-24-1991	Hustad	
		US- 5,520,939	05-28-1996	Wells	
		US- 5,582,853	12-10-1996	Marnocha et al.	
		US- 5,595,776	01-21-1997	Selz	
		US- 5,702,743	12-30-1997	Wells	
		US- 5,779,050	07-14-1998	Kocher et al.	
		US- 5,795,604	08-18-1998	Wells et al.	
		US- 6,083,550	07-04-2000	Cochran et al.	
		US- 6,630,237 B2	10-07-2003	Rivett et al.	

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

PTO/SB/08A Substitute for Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/823,795
				Filing Date	April 14, 2004
				First Named Inventor	FELDMEIER et al.
				Art Unit	1761
				Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket	1410/77107
Sheet	2	of	3		

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ²			
		US- RE 37,171 E	05-08-2001	Busche et al.	
		US- Des. 381,264	07-22-1997	Lippincott	
		US- Des. 387,272	12-09-1997	Lippincott	
		US- Des. 432,409	10-24-2000	Feldmeier	
		US- Des. 432,867	10-31-2000	Oravez	
		US- D465,382 S	11-12-2002	Wolf et al.	
		US- D470,757 S	02-25-2003	Espinel et al.	
		US- D471,100 S	03-04-2003	Guzowski	
		US- D471,766 S	03-18-2003	Bradley et al.	
		US- D479,442 S	09-09-2003	Bergas	
		US- D482,277 S	11-18-2003	Castellanos et al.	
		US- D482,928 S	12-02-2003	Liu	
		US- D483,232 S	12-09-2003	Liu	
		US- D484,364 S	12-30-2003	Bailey et al.	

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Date
Considered

PTO/SB/08A Substitute for Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/823,795
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Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket	1410/77107

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ²			
		US- D485,173 S	01-13-2004	Jacquet	
		US- 6,158,197	12-12-2000	Mogard et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
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		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵			

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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.